

XIX

PRINCIPAL CITIES

SAN JUAN THROUGH THE AGES—SAN JUAN OF TODAY AND TOMORROW—
PONCE—MAYAGUEZ—ARECIBO—AGUADILLA—BAYAMON—CAGUAS—
GUAYAMA—HUMACAO—SAN GERMAN—YAUCO.

San Juan Through the Ages

The "Port of Riches" of the Past and Present

By Pedro de Elizaburu,

Director of Prisons. Assistant of the Department of Labor,
Charity and Correction.

The city of San Juan was founded in 1519 during the government of Lcdo. Velázquez. It is situated on an island a mile long and half a mile wide, connected by bridges to the main island. Up to 1873 it was surrounded by walls and ramparts which started at Morro Castle, built in 1564 at the entrance of the port, and ended at Saint Christopher Castle, an important fortress, which was finished in 1771, and which faces the once called Carretera—today Ponce de León Avenue. This fortress supported the lines of defense which extended to Santurce.

The Ancient Gates. There were five gates to this walled city. The San Juan Gate, famous in the history of the Island, and in olden times the entrance to the city; San Justo Gate, at the incline of the Marina, through which later on the Governors entered the city. At this gate took place the act of the delivery of the keys of the city of San Juan by the departing Governor to the new one; this being an imposing ceremony attended by all the authorities.

The Governor unlocked the gate and solemnly entered between the lines of the garrison, formed at the sides of the San Justo, Fortaleza (now Allen) and Santo Cristo streets up to the Cathedral, where a Te Deum was sung, after which he went to the Santa Catalina Palace, where a reception took place.

This historical gate was demolished in 1873 and substituted by a wide avenue with the name of "Puerta de España" (Gate of Spain),

The San José Gate stands today above the municipal slaughter house, as also does the

Santa Rosa Gate, which leads to the cemetery. That of Santiago which gave way to Puerta de Tierra had a draw-bridge over the moat, with pontoons with sheaves and chains to raise it up in case of need. This gate was destroyed in 1887, together with all the Santiago defenses and the entire series of bulwarks, from San Christopher Castle down to the San Justo Gate.

The San Gerónimo Castle and the head of the San Antonio Bridge were the main defenses of 1797 which checked the English army of Sir Ralph Abercromby.

The walls having been destroyed, the city was extended to the districts of the Marina and Puerta de Tierra, which are today occupied by warehouses and important buildings, which greatly contribute to the wealth of the city.

Old Buildings and Narrow Streets. San Juan's streets are long, straight and narrow. It has regular squares and old, imposing buildings, mostly constructed during the reign of Doña Isabel II. The most noteworthy building is "Casa Blanca," the former residence of the Governor General constructed in 1525 for the use of the Conqueror of the Island, Don Juan Ponce de León. Its manorial aspect is a characteristic of its antiquity, and it is perfectly kept up today.

The Ballajá Infantry Barracks of simple architecture are located at one end of the city. Their construction was started in 1857 and completed in 1864 at a cost of 475,000 pesos. This building covers 7,716 square meters and affords quarters for two battalions. Over the

gate of the lobby there is written in large letters the following sentence of Calderón de la Barca: "The Military is a Religion of Right Men."

The Insane Asylum building was started in 1841 under the government of General Don Santiago Méndez Vigo and under the direction of the military engineer, Señor Cortijo. In 1844 the main body of the building was ready, and its inauguration took place on November 19, 1846, the birthday of her Majesty the Queen of Spain. It is known by the name of "Casa de Beneficencia" (House of Beneficence), and has been successively improved and enlarged, that it might be used as an asylum of public beneficence.

The so-called Military Hospital was a civil foundation, constructed by Fray Manuel Jiménez Pérez, Bishop of the Island, at his own expense, and with donations and pious gifts. The work was completed in 1782. Later on, and when required by the war with England, this building was turned over to the Military, although with the requirement that it should afford care for thirty needy patients.

The Cathedral, for its religious importance, is another notable building of old San Juan. It guards the remains of Ponce de León in an imposing tomb, the work of a noteworthy Spanish sculptor. In one of its chapels the body of San Pío Magno, a martyr, taken out from the Roman catacombs and brought to San Juan in the year 1860, is worshiped. In a beautiful altar there is the image of the Virgin of the Providence, the protectress of the Island, whom Porto Ricans fervently worship.

The Palace of the Insular Legislature, Senate and House of Representatives deserves mention as a building of plain and impressive architecture. It was constructed under the name "Diputación Provincial" (Provincial Deputation), and was devoted in former times to that body.

The buildings of the Treasury and the Governor's Palace, the first "La Intendencia," and "La Fortaleza de Santa Catalina," the second, must be mentioned for their beauty. The first, of three stories, was constructed in 1850, its architecture being delicate, with smooth, straight lines of exquisite taste; the second

with its character of a military fortress is typical of the Spanish colonial and even feudal style. Both of them face public squares and deserve the attention of the tourists. On their front and crowning their principal height there is the escutcheon of Spain in marble, with an inscription indicating the year of construction and the government of the time.

The Penitentiary has, the same as the others, grandeur of architecture.

Of the various theatres of San Juan we shall mention here only the Municipal theatre for its historical importance. It was the only one during the Spanish dominion, and was planned in 1824 by the Governor Don Miguel de la Torre with capacity for a thousand people. Its construction was started in 1825 and finished in 1832 at a cost of \$154,974. Later it was modified under the capable direction of the Porto Rican engineer, Don Tulio Larrínaga.

Modern Buildings. Since the American occupation fine, modern buildings have been constructed, such as the Federal Building, where the Post Office, the Customs office, the Immigration office and the Federal Court are located; those of the "Royal Bank of Canada," the "American Colonial Bank," "Bank of Nova Scotia," the "Banco Territorial y Agrícola"

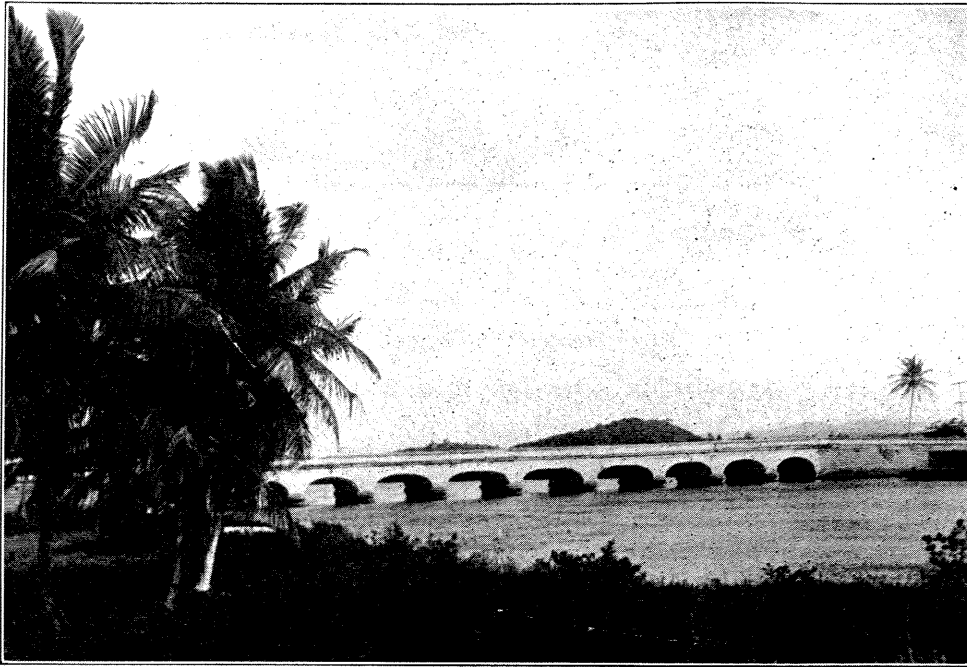


LA ANTIGUA PUERTA DE SAN JUAN.—OLD SAN JUAN GATE.

and the "Banco Popular," the "Casino de Puerto Rico," Young Men's Christian Association, the Carnegie Library, the "Iglesia de San Agustín," the "Asilo de Ancianos Desamparados," and the "Presbyterian Hospital." The following school buildings deserve special

buildings of the Porto Rico American Tobacco Company, of which two are located in Puerta de Tierra and one in San Juan.

Interesting Dates. On New Year's day, 1786, the Spanish flag was raised for the first time on the castles and public buildings of the city,



TESTIGO MUDO DEL PROGRESO INSULAR.—A MUTE WITNESS TO INSULAR PROGRESS.

mention: "Román Baldorioty de Castro," "José Julián Acosta," "Martin G. Brumbaugh," "Rafael Cordero," "Rafael Ma. de Labra," "Central High School," "Padre Rufo," "Lucchetti," and others, all of them up to date as regards comfort, and built at a cost of over a million dollars. Buildings for the Porto Rican Athenaeum, the Insular Capitol, the Knights of Columbus and others, are now under construction.

Mention must also be made of the following buildings which, though of private ownership, nevertheless, because of their public service, may be considered as public institutions: The Condado Vanderbilt Hotel, beautifully situated by the sea in the Condado residential park; the Terminal Station of the American Railroad Company, the Palace Hotel, the González Padín Building, now being constructed; the "Los Muchachos" building, as well as the three

as ordered by the decree of March 28, 1785, by the King Don Carlos III. True to her oath, San Juan always honored and defended that flag, and in the history of the wars of Spain it is common to see names of brave Porto Ricans who died fighting for her.

On July 24, 1812, the political constitution of the Spanish monarchy was published and sworn to in San Juan, after it had been approved of by the General and Extraordinary Courts. According to it, Porto Rico began to enjoy the full rights of a province of the monarchy, in the same manner that the other European provinces did.

On February 12, 1813, there was brought to San Juan from Puerto Cabello, the Venezuelan General, Don Francisco Miranda, who was taken to Morro Castle. General Miranda had fought in the campaigns of the United States for its liberty and in the armies of the French

revolution against the King in 1793. While in the dungeons of this historic castle he wrote, under date of May 18, 1813, his most solemn protest, because the terms of his surrender had not been lived up to. Miranda remained in the prison of San Juan until taken to Cádiz by a warship, where he died in the prison of Carraca, the 14th of July, 1816, having been the forerunner and first martyr of the Latin American independence.

On April 16, 1821, the first immigration from Venezuela came to San Juan. The knowledge of agriculture which they possessed and

the money they brought with them aided in the development of the Island. After this immigration others followed for a long time, and the relations between the families of the two countries determined an interchange among them.

This is also often the place chosen by exiles from South American countries for their residence when political causes drive them out of their country. And they choose it on account of its vicinity, the similarity of customs and the welcome extended them by all Porto Ricans.

San Juan of Today and Tomorrow

By Manuel Martinez Plée,

Journalist and Violinist.

San Juan of yesterday, today and tomorrow is most interesting to anyone possessing the vision of the past and of the future. The San Juan of yesterday was a religious and military city, surrounded by walls and batteries, and with a great number of churches. Its colonizing civilization was almost entirely mystic and warlike, and not much given to business development. Soldiers and priests were seen everywhere.

San Juan then lay in the circumference of a circle whose center was the Madrid of the XVII century, and to the wealthy Spanish empire it was of small importance. But in 1898 the time came for a general change.

The Promise of a Great City. The promise of a great and beautiful city with souvenirs of an interesting past—that is San Juan today. It is an old neighborhood rapidly changing into a center of great activity. Santa Catalina Palace, "Casa Blanca," with the flaming colors of its poinceanas regias, the severe Morro and the gallant Saint Christopher could never dream of a city at their feet where such a spirit of business should exist.

Some way apart from the old city and by the side of the highway which is becoming a magnificent traffic avenue, like those of New York and London, various residential neighborhoods have developed. Neighborhoods which grow steadily, and the time will come

before long when they will unite and form the future city; and as the same phenomenon is taking place between Martin Peña and Río Piedras and across the bay, we can well say that the future San Juan will be a city of immense extension. Perhaps the marvel of Spanish America.

The city is divided by two bridges affording charming views: the San Antonio Bridge, whose enchanting scenery makes one feel the power of God, and the Martin Peña Bridge, whose picturesqueness reaches the limits of perfection.

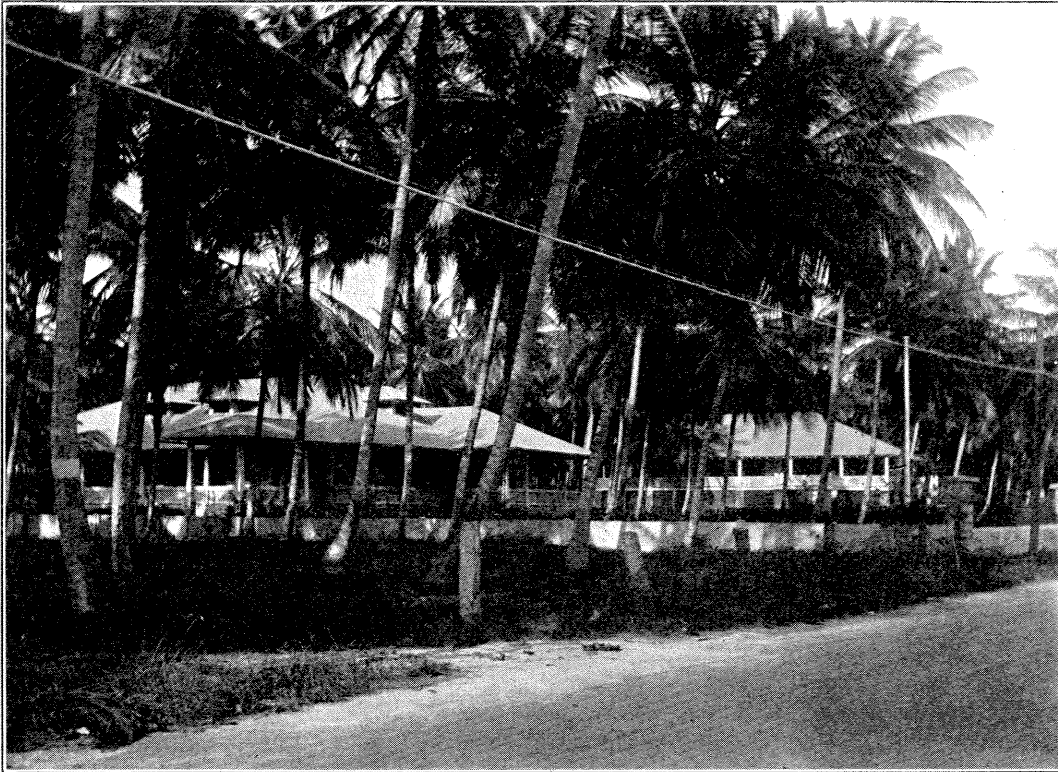
The comfort and elegance of the rich neighborhoods is unquestionable. The architecture of the homes and the way the society lives makes them lovers of the beauties of life; and shows that Porto Rico, under American liberty, has developed its nature—simple, sincere and thoughtful.

Such a development of a city is not strange to a person who, for a long time has lived in the United States, where he has seen how cities grow, and knows that it is the result of the enormous vitality of a civilization which is the best of all civilizations, and which aggrandizes and invigorates anything which it touches.

In the North they are used to that phenomenon; that is why they smooth the way for

the development of cities. The far-seeing municipal assemblies of the XIX century explain perfectly why New York is today a clean-cut city to which one can come from all directions, instead of being a labyrinth. The modern municipal authorities take due precautions as

for the area which such a number of people would necessitate. Nevertheless, the development of aviation, which jumps over the greatest distances in a short time, not only makes possible, but necessary, these urbs which humanity never dreamed of.



"EL COMFORT Y LA ELEGANCIA DE LOS NÚCLEOS RICOS ES SORPRENDENTE."
GOOD TRANSPORTATION MAKES THESE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS POSSIBLE.

to the future of the city whose population in the year 2000 is said will be thirty-seven million inhabitants.

In Porto Rico we do not foresee and plan ahead enough, and due to this lack of prevision the future San Juan seems destined to be deprived of beauty and comfort. To have the appearance of a daughter of contingency, born with good natural disposition, but which, due to lack of preparation, is not what it should be.

The growth of cities is in direct relation with the progress made in the means of communications. There has not yet been a city of thirty-seven million inhabitants because there has not been an easy way of communi-

In the United States the railway companies and the electric railways further the development of cities by establishing means of communication. Thus they increase their profits and honor themselves by aiding progress.

Travail for the Future. The future generations will face great difficulties, as they will find that the men of today, and of yesterday, have not paid due attention to the laying out of parks and squares, nor even to such a rudimentary thing as the intelligent laying out of streets and avenues. But as those generations will have another type of education and another spirit, they will know how to correct the errors of their ancestors, and San Juan will be a beautiful city, the pride of the Antilles

and of America, that city which many minds see fast advancing from Puerta de Tierra to the picturesque Buen Consejo of Río Piedras, from the piers to far away Cataño, everything points to a wonderful metropolis, which needs but careful planning to be a most beautiful one. That is the San Juan of tomorrow—less epic than that of yesterday, more practical and enterprising even than that of today; in other words, a greater San Juan, a truly “rich port”—rich in commerce, education, enterprise and all those things that make a great city.

Ponce

A Historical Sketch

By Juan Braschi,

Journalist.

Insular historians differ as to the year in which Ponce was founded, but Neumann states that it was in 1692.

Historical Background. The first city council elected by the people of Ponce was during Spain's constitutional regime, which was extended to the Spanish colonies. This council was composed of the following men: Mayor, José Ortiz de la Renta; Lieutenant Mayor, Joaquín Mercado; Aldermen, Juan Ramón Quintana, Miguel Ortiz de Mathos, Antonio Ortiz de la Renta, José Antonio Collazo, Clemente de Toro. Solicitors: Tomás Mercado and Luciano Ortiz de la Renta.

The first catholic place of worship built in Ponce was a rustic hermitage, and afterwards was built the Church of Our Lady of the Guadalupe, named after the patron saint of the city, and later on another chapel was erected under the protection of Saint Anthony Abadd.

In 1778, Ponce was made independent from the old town of San Blas de Illescas, which today is Coamo, and in 1820 when the Island was divided into seven judicial districts, Mr. Pedro Buenahora was appointed for Ponce, thus becoming the first judge that the “Pearl of the South” had.

When the Spanish republic was proclaimed in 1873, Ponce had its third city council of popular election, which was composed of the following men, all deceased: Juan Cortada y Quintana, Mayor, and Dr. Rafael Pujals and Federico Capó, Lieutenant Mayors; José Antonio Renta, Celedonio Besosa, Olimpio Otero, Lázaro Martínez, Marcos Fugurull, Francisco

Carreras, Juan José Mayoral, Guillermo Oppenheimer and Gustavo Cabrera, Aldermen.

In 1882, a memorable fair was celebrated in which some of the most conspicuous men of Ponce distinguished themselves for their initiative. Some of these men were Ermelindo Salazar Schuck and Juan Mayoral Barnés, aided by the Mayor Máximo Meana, Colonel of Infantry of the Spanish Army.

Ponce became a town in 1848 and in 1887 was made a city. In 1894 the metropolitan Spanish Government bestowed on its Council the title of “Most Excellent”, as most of them were.

One of the most philanthropic among the rich men of old Ponce was Valentín Tricoche, whose name was given to the great city hospital—Hospital Tricoche, one of the best of his time.

Ponce distinguished itself for its civic virtues, its industry and its culture in the critical periods of its history.

Ponce, too, has had celebrated educational centers, and many exceedingly good educators, among whom will always be remembered Román Baldorioty de Castro, Ramón Marín, Emeterio Colón Warren, Manuel Ruíz Gandía, Eduardo Neumann, Santiago Cedó, his son Ramón, Felipe Sánchez Castro and others. Among these must be mentioned Don Miguel Rosich, who, although born in Spain, loved Porto Rico as his own native land.

She has had also eminent physicians, among others, Doctors Pujals, Corchado (Martín) and Iglesias Genebriera.

As a musical center, there was a time when

Ponce was the most important one in the Island, Távarez and Morell Campos shining in it. In literature the Lecture Hall, not now existing, was a source of new ideas, wherein the authorized word of some of the most illustrious orators of Porto Rico resounded.

nuel Gandía, poet and educator; Román Baldorioty de Castro, Aristides Díaz y Díaz, Luis R. Velázquez, Mario Braschi, José Ramón Abad, Luis Casals and a brilliant host of other liberals. Mention should also be made of the distinguished lawyers Francisco Romero and



PLAZA DE LAS DELICIAS.—THE PARK OF ENJOYMENT, PONCE.

Journalism. The history of journalism in the "Pearl of the South", began with the establishment of "El Ponceño" (The Poncean) by Daniel Rivera, and in that paper the ingenuity of some of the local writers was revealed, especially in the satirical verses contributed. Many other publications followed "El Ponceño".

The Cradle of Liberty. Ponce was, even before the foundation of the Autonomous Party at the theatre "La Perla", in 1887, a veritable stronghold and center of native liberalism. It looked as if the native culture tended to center itself in her, and by some she was known as the "Brains of the Island". Many prominent men were residents of this city. Ramón Marín, writer and teacher; Ma-

José Joaquín Vargas, the latter a brilliant orator and an eminent lawyer; Olimpio Otero and Adolfo Casals, two public-spirited citizens; the agronomist Adolfo Vendrell and others, many of whose biographies are found elsewhere in this book.

"La Revista de Puerto Rico". This great autonomist paper was founded by the Spanish journalist Francisco Cepeda Taborcias, in collaboration with Mario Braschi, who later founded the paper "La Razón" at Mayaguez. After the time of the "componete", the Cuban writer Agustín Navarrete, came to take part in the journalist work of Cepeda.

Baldorioty, Martín, Muñoz Rivera. After the death of Baldorioty who had been director of the paper "El Derecho", and later of "La

Crónica", with Ramón Marín, the latter had kept up the fight from the pages of his paper "El Vapor" aided by his sons Américo and Ramón. Américo was the editor of "El Popular". One of the faithful friends of Don Ramón in those bitter times for him was the young lawyer and already an eminent orator, Herminio Díaz Navarro. When "El Popular" ceased to appear, Luis Muñoz Rivera came from Barranquitas and founded "La Democracia", conducting in it such courageous campaigns that he attracted the sympathetic attention of the whole Island.

"El Postillón" (Second period). Shortly after "La Democracia" was founded and while it was still a weekly, there came to Ponce, from Arecibo, a tall, bronze-colored young man, with a clear eye and broad forehead. His name, then unknown to fame, but now carried in the hearts of his countrymen, was Francisco Gonzalo Marín (Pachín), he who founded "El Postillón", the celebrated autonomist daily. With Pachín, and like him expelled from Venezuela, there came the Colombian writer Juan Coronel. Both had been victims of the dictatorship of Dr. Andueza Palacios, and Coronel was brought by Pachín to "El Postillón".

This paper made such an aggressive campaign that its director had to make his escape to the United States, and later had a tragical death in the Turiguanó marshes during the liberating Cuban war. Coronel became a compositor on "La Democracia", and there edited his famous pamphlet "A Trip at the Expense of the Government", for which he was expelled from Porto Rico and persecuted by the representative of Venezuela, the noteworthy writer Miguel Eduardo Pardo.

"La Democracia" became a daily when Muñoz Rivera imported an excellent Marinoni press from the United States. Muñoz Rivera gathered around him a brilliant force of writers. First Mariano Abril, and then Rodríguez Cabrero (Luís) came to him from San Sebastián; afterwards Eugenio Astol, who resided in Mayaguez; Eugenio Deschamps expelled from Santo Domingo by Lili (Hereux); Rosendo Rivera Colón; Enrique Vázquez Aguilar and the two brothers José A. and Quintín Negrón Sanjurjo among them.

Evaristo Izcoa Díaz, that martyr of his patriotic zeal, came to "La Democracia" from Toa Alta, where he was its correspondent. Muñoz Rivera made room for him, appointing him editorial clerk, a position which he gave up to found "La Bomba", an article in which was the cause of his being imprisoned in the state prison of Valladolid, Spain.

Through the "Revista de Puerto Rico", passed while very young, at the time of Cepeda, the ardent and energetic writer, Félix Matos Bernier, who in 1894 founded his great paper "La Libertad", in which he conducted magnificent journalistic campaigns.

Luis Caballer, who in 1890 had founded "La Sombra," was later director of "La Pequeña Antilla", in which Carrión Maduro wrote much and from where the Civil Guard one day took him to jail for a supposed offense of conspiracy.

When, during the North American invasion, Izcoa Díaz was set at liberty in Spain, he returned to Ponce and again founded "La Bomba", but on account of an article in it had to suspend its publication. Afterwards he established "El Combate", in which while yet a young man, Carlos del Toro Fernández (now a prominent lawyer and resident of Yauco, wrote excellent articles. "El Combate" was at this time persecuted until Izcoa went again to prison. Izcoa died at the Asilo de Damas (Ladies' Asylum) at Ponce.

Urban Advancement. Ponce contains two beautiful squares, formerly called "de Armas" and "de las Delicias" and separated by the handsome church "de la Guadalupe". At present the "Plaza de Armas" bears the name of an illustrious son of Ponce, Federico Degetau González, and the "Delicias" square is called "Plaza de Muñoz Rivera", in honor to the great Porto Rican patriot. There is also the "Parque Abolición" (Abolition Park) in remembrance of the glorious event of the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico.

Modern Ponce. What might be called modern Ponce has attained great progress. The last administration planned, under the leadership of Guillermo Vivas Valdivieso, to secure a municipal loan of a million and a quarter dollars to be spent on improvements, such as the

construction of a sewerage system, the paving of streets, the enlargement of the old water works, and the repair of rural roads, so as to make easier the transportation of crops and the exchange of all sorts of goods and ideas between the country districts and the capital of the municipality. The present administration, the successor to the above mentioned one, has accomplished that loan, and it is therefore, to be expected, that in a short time, Ponce will have all that is required for its progress, in accordance with its great resources and material prosperity.

Private initiative also has made very meritorious efforts in the urbanization of the city. New Belgium is one of the recent suburbs of Ponce. Its houses forming a distinctive group with some degree of natural beauty enhanced by its bright appearance and by rose bushes in every yard, the exuberant grove and the pastoral surroundings of San Antón, a rustic suburb separated from New Belgium by the river Portugués, makes it most attractive.

The Oliver suburb is also very beautiful. Hostos avenue is the most important one of the "Pearl of the South," and its was named

in honor of the bright and glorious Porto Rican writer Eugenio María de Hostos. It is wide and well paved and leads to the Marina.

On the right bank of the river Portugués, about one hundred houses inhabited by seafaring men have been built. This settlement is known as San Tomás.

Following in a westerly direction along the southern boundary, which is the Caribbean Sea, one comes to the mouth of the small river "Los Meros," and here on ground bounded by this river and the New Cemetery, a number of well-to-do families have built beautiful modern residences.

The Playa de Ponce is the heart of the wholesale business section of the City; here are located the great wholesale establishments and huge warehouses of her Captains of Industry. The Parque Miramar and Bonaire Avenue, two picturesque spots, are found here.

The municipal pier stands on land of the old "Guancha" in the same spot, "Los Morrillos," which was suggested a long time ago by the Spanish engineer Schar, author of the pamphlet "El Porvenir de Ponce" (The Future of Ponce).



LOS BAÑOS DE COAMO.—THE FAR-FAMED MINERAL SPRINGS.

The harbor of Ponce is of utmost importance, especially due to the advantageous position with reference to the ocean route to Panama, and as soon as the extensive improvements contemplated are carried out, the maritime movement in it will greatly increase. These improvements, it is believed, will not be delayed, and a great embankment is to be constructed from the settlement of the Playa to the point of the municipal pier.

Residential Park "El Vigía." This Park will be in the future one of the most graceful exponents of the progress of the "Pearl of the South," as regards modern urbanization. It is but one of the developments of the city, but the most beautiful and picturesque of all, as it stands on the high hills toward the north. There are already several buildings built among them, the fine mansion of Dr. López Nussa, and the club house of the Rotarians is now under construction.

Churches. Among her churches are the Catholic Church of the Guadalupe which stands in appropriate and prominent surroundings between the two beautiful plazas, "de Armas" and "Muñoz Rivera," in the center of the city, the chapel of the Milagrosa (Miraculous Virgin); and the Episcopal Church, "La Santísima Trinidad, the oldest Non-Roman church erected within the dominions of Spain, and several others.

Schools. Education has always received marked attention by the "Pearl of the South," and naturally—education being a prime factor of man's liberty, "the cradle of Liberty," possessed many fine school buildings such as the Ponce High School, the McKinley School, the Liceo Ponceño, school for girls, etc., etc. There is also a school for the blind, an institution which does really remarkable work.

Schools of Practical Training. Many centers for practical training for her youth also exist, among which should be mentioned the Beneficent Industrial Training Shop, and other workers' societies of a like nature, prominent among which are the "Juan Morell Campos Club," to which is due the project of raising a monument to the memory of the son of Ponce who became the noted composer Juan Morell Campos.

Morell Campos Monument. This will be a statue of Italian marble executed by the well known Italian sculptor Luiggi Tomassi, and is to cost \$3,000, a sum which was most appropriately raised by popular subscription, and it will before long adorn the Plaza Degetau. Ponce, however, not satisfied with paying tribute in lasting stone to one of her sons alone, is now erecting in the Plaza Muñoz Rivera another beautiful monument, this one in memory of that beloved patriot for whom that plaza was named.

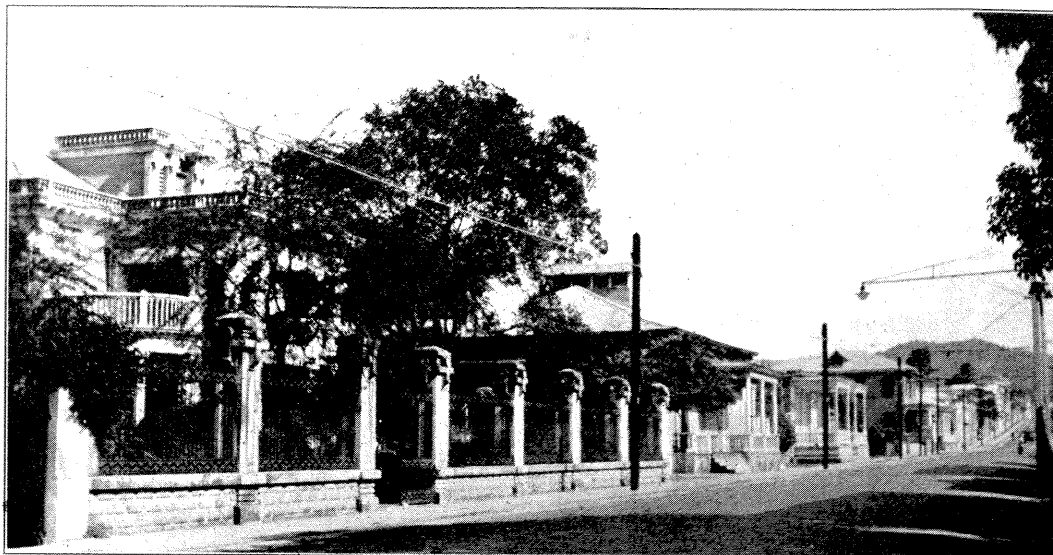
Hospitals. Just as Ponce provides beautiful buildings for the worship of God, and for the education of his children, so she provides modern hospitals for all her people who may need them, among them being "Tricoche Hospital," Saint Luke's Hospital and the "Hospital de Damas," or "Women's Hospital."

Clubs and Public Buildings. Ponce has numerous buildings, such as the City Hall, the Ponce Casino, built by Mr. Lucas P. Valdivieso, the Club Deportivo (Country Club), and others.

Financial, Industrial and Commercial Ponce. The citizens of the metropolis of the south enjoy most extensive financial and banking facilities, there being some twenty-five or more banks, savings banks, insurance companies and kindred enterprises in a flourishing condition there. Industrially, too, there are in addition to extensive sugar centrals many other manufacturing enterprises, such as hat and clothing factories, a plant for making alcoholado (Bay rum), a diamond cutting plant, etc., and many fine stores.

Work, Rest and Pleasure for All. At Ponce, amidst her glorious palms and ancient and modern buildings, rest in peace men eminent in the history of both the island and their city, among them José Joaquín Vargas, lawyer; the artist, Manuel Gregorio Tavárez, Román Baldorioty de Castro, Rivera Colón, Contreras Ramos, Carlos Casanova, Izcoa Díaz and others.

And at Ponce too,—so easy to reach by a wonderful ride across the mountains from San Juan, or by the ocean, the visiting tourists find much of interest, good hotels, and always a hearty welcome.



CALLE MÉNDEZ VIGO, MAYAGÜEZ.—A STREET OF THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION.

Mayagüez

Por Manuel Guzmán Rodríguez, Hijo, M.D.,

Radiologist. Editor of "The Western Polyclinic Journal.

Situated at the foot of a chain of mountains, and directly on the shore of the broad Atlantic ocean, Mayagüez offers to the visitor's eyes a most charming panorama.

Like San Francisco, in far-off California, Mayagüez suffered severely by an earthquake, but the citizens of the latter town, just like those of the former, allow nothing to shake their faith in their city, and today new churches, schools, public buildings, handsome homes, industrial and commercial buildings and greater industries all testify to the enterprise and rapid development of Mayagüez, the metropolis of the western coast.

He who knew the Mayagüez of old, the small city of Colón square and Méndez Vigo street, hardly recognizes the Mayagüez of today, a city of fine wide streets over which one rolls in his auto to the new districts—Columbia, Pueblo Nuevo, Nuevo Londres, París, Sabana de Cuebas, etc.

A city rich in beautiful buildings—that's Mayagüez, and if you want proof, visit her and see for yourself the Esteves building, the parochial house on Méndez Vigo street, the Neighborhood House at the Marina, the Yagüez theater, the fine buildings and grounds of the

College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, the practical and well-appointed Correctional School, the modern school buildings—Asenjo, Riera Palmer, Farragut and Roosevelt, and the fine high school building that would be the pride of any progressive city.

Now glance at her social centers—the far-famed "Casino de Mayagüez," the "Centro Español," where both Spaniards and Porto Ricans enjoy themselves, the "Casino del Oeste" and the "Club Mayagüezano."

The churches, too, have shown the way to practical progress and scientific betterment. Witness the parochial schools of the Catholic Church, the school and dispensary of the Presbyterians, and the fine schools of the Episcopalians.

The children of this progressive city are well provided with schools, and today 5,493 of them receive instruction from 112 teachers in 109 modern class rooms. Mayagüez, too, had the distinction of being the site of the first school building built in the island under the sovereignty of the United States—the Farragut School, situated near the "Joaquín Martínez Guasp Building," named after an eminent Mayagüez physician, and in which are

located the library, the office of the supervisor and the Dental Clinic. Just out of town, too, the visitor notes the Federal Agricultural Experiment Station, which has done such important work for the island, and also the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, both of which are described elsewhere in this book.

Educational work has long made Mayagüez famous, for here, too, it was that the "Sociedad Propagadora de la Instrucción" (Society for the Propagation of Instruction) founded a college of secondary education during the Spanish régime, in which Don Bartholomé Esteva distinguished himself, and where so many of the island's prominent men of today were educated.

This college has two buildings, one for males, the other for females, and was where notable Porto Ricans like Arcadio Ramírez Casablanca, Eliseo Font y Guillot and Antonio Rosell and Mrs. Juana Farine Rosell, a French lady, and Mrs. Clementina Albéniz Ruiz Rojos, Spaniard, accomplished meritorious educational work.

Other prominent educators of the city were the Dominican patriot, José María Serra, a worker for the public welfare; and another Spanish teacher, Mrs. Josefa Sevilla Arnaldo, who greatly aided to the development of popular instruction.

As to statesmen, we must mention the following citizens of Mayagüez: Betances, Ruiz Belvis, Basora, Ramón Nadal, Salvador Mestre, Salvador Carbonell and José de Jesús Domín-

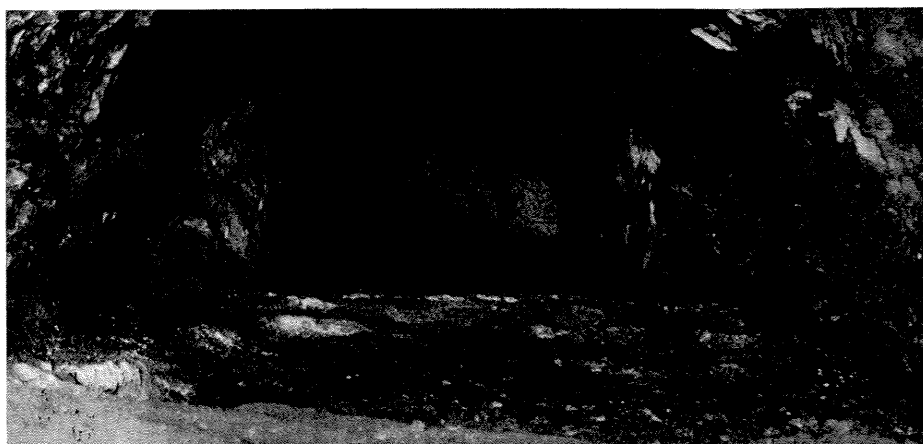
guez, as leaders in the movement for democracy and liberty in Porto Rico.

The "Casino de Mayagüez" and the "Centro Español" were noted as centers of artistic education and in their buildings are given lectures, concerts and plays acted by amateurs who presented for the first time in Porto Rico many plays of the present Spanish stage.

The papers "La Razón" (The Reason), "La Propaganda" (The Propaganda), "El Propagador" (The Disseminator), "La Prensa" (The Press), "El Imparcial" (The Impartial), and others were there published, the last being the first journal regularly published in Porto Rico, it having been founded by Martín Fernández.

Among the foremost journalists of this city must be recalled José Ramón Freyre, Antonio Ruiz Quiñones and Bonocio Tió Segarra, and later Messrs. Salvador Mestre, Ramón Nadal, José María Monge, Carlos Casanova, Julio Enrique Vélez, who went to Santo Domingo; Nicolás López de Victoria, Rafael Gauthier and Dr. Martín Travieso.

Mrs. Lola Rodríguez de Tió was a poet and her husband a noted literary man, at whose house the lovers of literature gathered, among others, Carlos Peñaranda, a Spanish poet, Manuel María Sama, José María Monge and Dr. Domínguez. These, together with José G. Espinosa, José Ramos Brans, Armando Esteva, Mariano Riera Palmer, José Avellanet Balaguer and José González Quiara, by their work contributed to Porto Rico's intellectual development.





PLAZA DE AGUADILLA EN UNA TARDE LLUVIOSA.—THE ANCIENT PLAZA OF AGUADILLA ON A RAINY AFTERNOON.

Arecibo

Por Franciso María Susoni, M.D.,

Senator. Member of several scientific and professional associations.

Picture in your mind's eyes a vast stretch of level country covered with waving sugar cane like an emerald sea, with the Tanamá river and its tributaries crossing it like bands of silver in the rays of the sun, and surrounded by a chain of beautiful mountains and emerald hills and you have the picture of the land side of the city of Arecibo.

Now turn your back to that lovely panorama and face the mighty Atlantic whose ever sounding waves wash the shore on which that city stands like a sentry guarding the treasures of land and sea. That city of simple and peaceful life, of noble desires, whose peoples are industrious, wide awake and progressive. A city always zealous of its honor, proud of its history and which stands today as a living monument of progress erected upon the foundation of the very loyal and heroic village of Captain Correa. A municipality of 46,378 inhabitants; 10,039 of whom reside in the city itself.

Arecibo is a busy spot in its commercial aspects, its principal industry—sugar manufacture being represented by two modern sugar centrals, one of 200,000 bags capacity, the other of 75,000 bags. Banks, flourishing stores and many other industrial establishments and small manufacturing enterprises, too, are found in this "progressive city of the North."

Good roads cross its rural districts and her road system will figure well at the head of the island's municipalities as soon as the works of the present budget are completed.

Good Educational Facilities. Good public instruction has always been a strong factor in Arecibo's development, and at the first of the year she had 106 schools, 37 of them graded and the balance rural schools caring for 5,800 pupils, according to the report of the Municipal Commissioner of Instruction, but more schools were needed and six additional graded

schools and 15 rural schools have been added this year to date.

Illustrious men. With such provision for the education of her children, Arecibo is destined to produce in the future men and women worthy to take their place alongside of her leaders of the past. The history of Arecibo records a list of prominent men who served not alone their island but their brothers of other Spanish speaking countries through the efforts of their co-operation for a common ideal of Latin-American emancipation.

This is proved by Francisco Gonzalo Marín, a poet and journalist who died under the shade of the Cuban flag; Wenceslo Marín, a soldier of the liberating Cuban Army who died in the "combate del triunfo."

Poets who wrote against foreign impositions, such as José Machiavelo, the already mentioned Francisco Gonzalo Marín, Francisco Rendón Camacho and Lcdo. José Ramón Rivera. And in the musical art the pianist and composer Herclio Ramos, one of the island's notable musicians.

Men of sciences, such as Manuel Pérez Freytes, a pharmacist, who has won medals

in scientific contests in France, Germany and Spain; and others like Antonio de los Reyes Correa, a lieutenant, José Victor Rojas, a brave sailor who rescued from death in the sea many a life; Benigno Balseiro, a prized drama writer; Francisco Pérez Freytes, M.D., drama writer and poet; Manuel R. Figueroa, a surgeon, member ad honorem of the Paris Medical Association, all of whom are known and honored far and wide.

Special mention, too, must be made of the late Don Manuel Ledesma, who gave his co-operation to the furtherance of his native city as Public Service Commissioner and who for his philanthropy and liberal feelings will always have the affection of his fellow-citizens.

His father, Gregorio S. Ledesma was another good son of Arecibo, a well-to-do man who greatly contributed to the development of the country.

For its financial resources, its history and education, Arecibo is one of the most important cities of Porto Rico; and the splendor of its past and prosperity of its present insure ever growing prosperity and fame.

Aguadilla

By **Juan García Ducós, LL.B.,**

Physician and Surgeon. Senator. Member of Various Scientific and Professional Associations.

Situated at the northwestern part of the island between the great mountain Jaicoa and a deep bay stands Aguadilla, a faithful villa in olden times and today the capital of the Third Senatorial District of the Island.

Her commerce is of importance and her industries well developed, among the latter, the leading one being that of embroideries while others are furniture and straw articles.

The sea off Aguadilla is rich in fish which are famous throughout the Island. Fishing is carried on daily, and in its development lies a great opportunity for anybody with sufficient resources, to develop this enterprise on modern lines.

Sugar cane, tobacco, oranges, coconuts and minor crops are raised in the rural zone. There is also raised in the municipality a superior

class of sea-island cotton. Extensive stretches of palm trees are here from which are made hats, baskets and other articles used by her people and gladly purchased by the tourists.

In the center of the city there is a handsome fountain and on the banks of the Cluebrinas river near the city at the spot where Columbus' ships were supplied with water, at the time of the discovery of the Island a magnificent marble cross has been erected, commemorating that glorious event.

There are beautiful marine views from the coast of Aguadilla, among others are "El Canto de las Piedras," "Los Tres Amigos," "La Playuella," and the lighthouse "Punta de Borinquen," this being one of the most beautiful of the Island.

Aguadilla is the birthplace of illustrious men and women, among them, Bibiana Benítez, literary woman; Agustín Stahl, naturalist; José de Diego, statesman, lawyer, poet and orator; José M. P. Escoriza Cardona, statesman; Rafael del Valle, poet and composer; Andrés José Ferraris, publicist; General López de Sola; José J. Esteves, poet; Ramón Méndez

Quiñonez, author of comical composition; José G. del Valle, economist; the newspaperman Gumersindo Rivas, and the poet, José A. Aponte.

But what makes Aguadilla unequalled by any other city is her glorious sunsets, her ever-blue sky, her sea and her murmuring palms, but more than all, her beautiful daughters.



SAN JUAN, VISTA DESDE EL CAMINO DE BAYAMÓN.—VIEW FROM BAYAMÓN OF THE SAN JUAN WATER FRONT.

Bayamón

Por Braulio Dueño Colón,

Literary man, composer, artist and musician.

Bayamón is the birthplace of two illustrious Porto Ricans, whose names deserved mention in this book, for the fame they acquired both in and outside of the Island, Gonzalo J. Núñez, the prominent pianist and composer, "artist and enlightened man, wise and fervent believer," as Rubén Darío called him in one of his books, and Dr. José Celso Barbosa, a good and intelligent man, who devoted all his life to the struggle for progress and betterment of his native land.

Bayamón ranks sixth in population, is one of the first towns in the commercial and agricultural development of Porto Rico and its real estate is valued at more than six million dollars.

The municipality of Bayamón is crossed by one of the deepest rivers in the island and by several brooks, its soil being very fertile. In the highlands some coffee and a great deal of minor crops are raised, while in the lowlands good pastures are found, and pineapples, grape fruit and oranges are grown, while sugar cane and tobacco grow luxuriantly.

Bayamón was founded in 1772 and is located seven kilometers from the bay of San Juan. At the south it has two main entrances from San Juan: one, by the eastern road, beginning in Santurce, and the other from the north by crossing the bay and taking the train of the "Línea Férrea del Oeste," or one of the public guaguas.

The visitor entering by the former road should notice the beautiful hills that guard the city like a fort. To him also there is much of interest and importance. The wide Dr. Veve street, so wide in fact, that it can be compared with the Carretera Central in Santurce. This street, the widest of the city, begins in the Santa Cruz Clinic, crosses the town in its center and is divided when it reaches the Río Hondo bridge, one road leading to Comerío and the other to Toa Baja.

In the center of Bayamón is located a spacious plaza, bearing the name of the illustrious Porto Rican "Eugenio María de Hostos." The city has a catholic and two protestant churches and its best buildings are those in which the municipal offices are located, the Masonic

Lodge, the "John Marshall" school, the catholic college "Santa Rosa" and the two large tobacco factories.

At the end of Toa Baja street, and in the place where the unfortunate aviator, Zorilla,

fell from a height of 500 meters, a modest marble monument is erected in memory of that tragic event, which occurred some twenty-seven years ago, and brought amazement to the pacific inhabitants of Bayamón.

Caguas

By A. Fernós Isern, M.D.,

Assistant Commissioner of Public Health of Porto Rico.

Founded in 1775 on a wide, level strip of land between two branches of the Cordillera Central, stands the city of the Turabo river—Caguas, perhaps the most typical Porto Rican spot. It is the fourth largest city, with 36,000 inhabitants and also one of the wealthiest.

Superb in its location, through the valley on which the town is built there runs from south to north the Río Grande de Loíza (Loíza's Great River), the widest stream in Porto Rico, a river of changeable moods, sometimes swift and nosy, at other silent and majestic in its journey to the sea.

But Caguas boasts other rivers, the Turabo, a tributary of the former one, which runs from south to west through the valley, joining the Río Grande in an acute angle, and the Cagüísticas, another tributary, which runs from the mountains of Aguas Buenas, which bound the valley on the west, and joins the Río Grande de Loíza a little way from where the Turabo River pours into it.

In fact, it is on the land between the Turabo and the Cagüitas rivers that Caguas proper is located, its suburbs reaching to the rivers' banks.

Just an hour's ride by train or automobile from San Juan and Caguas looms in view across a bridge, and as you enter you notice its modern buildings, warehouses and large tobacco factories, its handsome houses, some of modern architecture and many of old colonial type, and then the eyes of the visitor rest upon Palmer Park in the center of the city, one of the island's most beautiful, if not the most beautiful plaza, which reminds one of the parks at Versailles.

Caguas is an up-to-date city, with every indication of the progress and enterprise of its people—good sewerage and aqueduct systems, electric light, right on the railroad, and with good schools, handsome churches and fine theaters, but modern as she is, she has never lost her true Porto Rican atmosphere, and in her habits and her customs she keeps her old traditions, which is why the author, in describing her, called her the most typical Porto Rican spot, or in other words, the most Porto Rican of Porto Rico's cities, a fact that the tourist to the island should bear in mind.

Caguas derived its name from the Indian chief "Caguax," who lived in her surroundings, and who was one of the first Indian chiefs to embrace the Christian faith, and not alone was her name taken from the Indians, but many of her districts bear Indian names, such as Cañabón, Bairoa, Turabo, which are also the names of her rivers as well.

In Caguas stands the home of the noted Porto Rican poet—José Gautier Benítez, often called the island's Heine, and who was born in the city which has honored him by naming a street after him.

Here also were born Don Caspio Alonso, the satirical story writer, brother of Don Manuel Alonso, the author of "El Jíbaro"; Dr. Jiménez Sanjurjo, who died while mayor of the city; "Momo", José Mercado, a witty poet, and other illustrious Porto Ricans.

The future of Caguas is most promising as, it being near San Juan, its development is greatly furthered. It is an agricultural and industrial center of sugar cane and tobacco, with San Lorenzo at the southeast, Gurabo at the northwest, Aguas Buenas at the west, and

Cidra at the southeast, all tributaries to the busy city of Caguas.

Caguas is constantly growing in population, but such growth is due not only to her being

an industrial, agricultural and commercial center, but largely to her special charm to visitors, as one always feels himself at home at Caguas.



"LA CIUDAD MÁS PUERTORRIQUEÑA DE LA ISLA."—THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF CAGUAS MAKE GOOD USE OF THE PLAZA.

Guayama

By Pedro Manzano Aviñó, LL.B.,

Judge, Municipal Court of San Juan.

In the year 1736, Guayama graduated from the village class and blossomed out as a city, a title granted to her by the Spanish Government, through its representative, the Governor of the Island, Lieutenant Colonel Matías Abadía. Since that time and during all the years which have elapsed, Guayama has been a city modeled for greater progress and the greater activities of human life, realizing with marked

success many enterprises of betterment for the community.

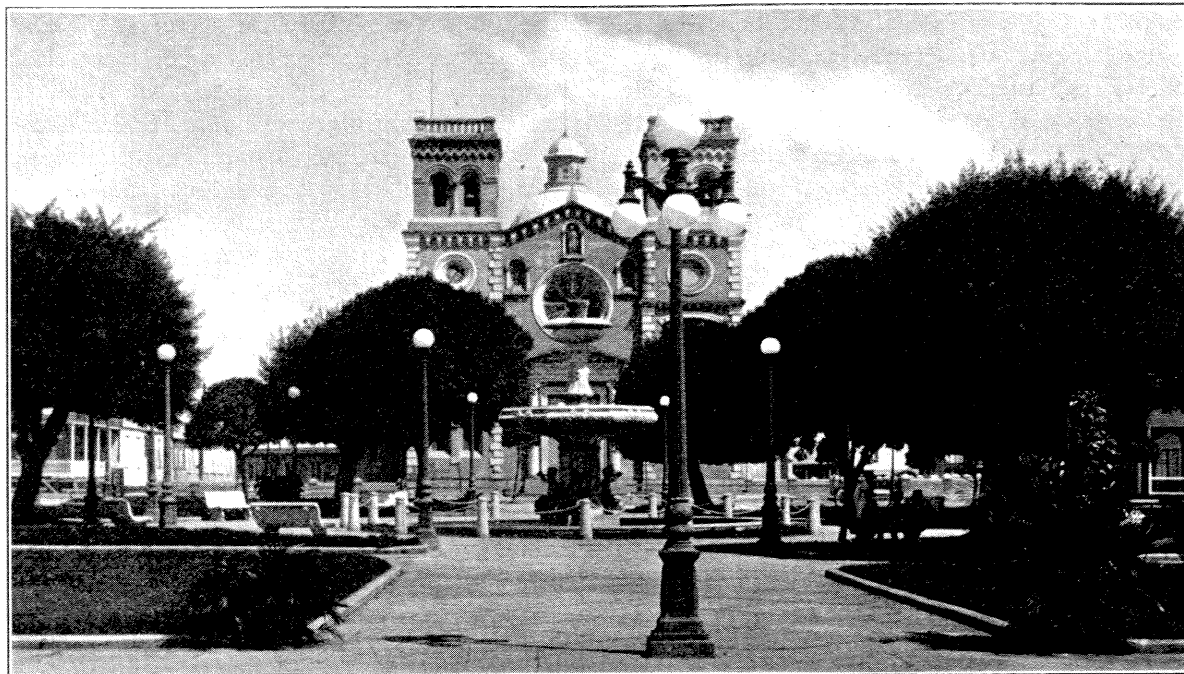
Situation. The city of Guayama is located in the southern part of the island and is bounded at the north by the mountains of the "Cordillera Central" and the Cape of "Mala Pascua", on the east and south by the Caribbean Sea, and on the west by the immense plain which from the highest spot of the Gua-

maní, looks like a huge green carpet lighted by the golden rays of the sun.

Crops. The soil of the surrounding country has ever been fertile for the cultivation of tobacco, coffee, corn, rice and many other crops that on the mountain slopes and along the

beautiful cathedrals erected in the large cities of the world, by the faith of their believers.

Guayama has a City Hall of beautiful and solid structure and also fine buildings like the High School, the Washington and Derkes Schools, the market, the municipal jail, the



PRECIOSA CATEDRAL Y PLAZA DE GUAYAMA.—THE PRIDE OF GUAYAMA.

banks of the Guamaní river, afford the most abundant production to the activities of the landowner and of the farmers of that place.

Today, in its greater part, the cultivation of those crops has been substituted by that of cane, this being extensively planted on the vast plain that extends for miles to the east, south and west.

Public Adornment. Referring to public adornment, the city has now several beautiful buildings, a handsome plaza and other places of recreation which adorn it.

In 1873 the construction of one of the most beautiful models of Spanish architecture was finished, this being its catholic church, which is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful on the Island, especially in its façade. When contemplating it with its magnificent tower and its roof of enormous lead plates, it fixes in the mind of the observer the impression of those

“Toribio” hospital, the “Primavera” and “Campoamor” theaters and other buildings of simple and extensive construction.

The initiative of the society of Guayama has contributed to embellish the city, constructing some fine residences, and has completed her public ornament with the beautiful plaza, which is located in the center of the city. This plaza, with its spacious sidewalks, and beautiful trees, is a fairyland for lovers and a joy to all, and when viewed at a distance on a moonlight night, when the light of its electric lamps is extinguished, it appears like an enchanted spot bathed in the moonlight. In its center is a fountain that delights the stroller with the murmur of its falling waters, and which was a gift of love to the town of his birth, from Mr. Genaro Cautiño Insúa, who does honor to the city of Guayama.

Above we have mentioned the "Toribio" Hospital, for which the city gives honor and praise to the kindness of that generous Spaniard, who lived for a long time in Guayama and who was known by all its inhabitants. Mr. Pedro Toribio, who after having acquired a small fortune stipulated in the last moments of his life that almost all his money should be dedicated to the construction of a hospital in the city where through his constant work he amassed it and which had been so fond of him. And for that reason Guayama will ever honor and praise that Spanish gentleman as an adopted son of Porto Rico, who did not hesitate to make as his heir the city in which his remains repose in peace.

Social Centers. Guayama has several social centers devoted to the happiness of her youth, in which festivals are dedicated to the Arts and Letters and often for dances, her people being very fond of dancing. The dancing halls of the "Casino Español" were the first to be opened for the recreation of everybody. Lately the "Club Puertorriqueño" was founded, in which club the enthusiasm of the initiators and board of directors have done many things of importance in reference to social and artistic entertainments. The "Casino de Guayama" was founded and maintained by the laboring class, in whom Guayama has and always has had prominent elements of decided and intellectual culture.

Public Instruction. In Guayama, like in all the towns on the Island, the educational progress reached is self-evident. Since 1820 in which year the first two public schools were established, to the present time, a century later, Guayama is proud of its educational work. Today it possesses some sixty or more schools from the most important for higher studies to the most modest rural schools. In public instruction, during the Spanish sovereignty, the following teachers, among others, distinguished themselves: Mrs. Zoraida García, Mrs. Angela Domínguez, Mr. Francisco Cortés, Mr. Fabriciano Cuaves; Mr. Rafael Sanz

Cabezón and Mr. Eleuterio Lugo. At the present time there is an eminent group devoted to teaching in which her youth have always displayed enthusiasm and devotion in a noteworthy manner. The people of Guayama know that the school is the origin and the determining cause that tends to progress, that it is the guide to the summits of happiness and comfort of the communities in general, whose summits are adjacent to those others over which the Banner of Liberty always floats.

Distinguished Men. Guayama may well be proud of her sons who have honored and praised her in different ways, and she also holds a prominent place among the educational centers of Porto Rico, both in her private schools and in those of public character.

Some of her distinguished sons should be mentioned: Vicente Palés, a facile poet and a well-known teacher; Dr. Tomás Vázquez, a man who not only honored his city but acquired glory for the Island, and who due to wide liberal ideals, in politics he made notable campaigns on every occasion; Fabriciano Cuevas, he who was the teacher of a whole generation. As an example of individual effort and of love for working men must be mentioned Genero Cautiño Vázquez, who filled important positions in the local administration of Guayama and was a prominent factor in the commerce of that city; Eleuterio Derkes, splendidly endowed with poetical ability which he used to exalt his ideals and his native land; Eleuterio Lugo, also a poet and a teacher.

Guayama, too, regards most affectionately those citizens of hers who have left behind them many deeds which will always live—Agustin Calimano Martínez, Carlos Nicolás Bruno, Antonio Grau O'Donell, Rafael Palés Díaz, William McCormic and others.

Guayama, the unequalled spot of the southern lowlands, so busy and cheerful in her sun-kissed days, and happy and romantic in her moonlight nights, endears herself to the writer now and always no matter how far from her he may be.

Humacao

Por Frank A. Martínez,

Chief Clerk, Senate of Porto Rico.

Humacao was founded in 1790, being incorporated as a Villa September 7, 1881, and raised to the rank of city January 23, 1894; its name being derived from Jumacao, the name of an Indian chief.

Humacao's urban population is 6,183, the municipality in general having a dense population of 20,229 inhabitants, with real estate and personal property valued at more than five million dollars.

It is beautifully situated at the eastern part of the Island, in a valley surrounded by a chain of mountains and is some six miles from the Atlantic Ocean, the sea whose breezes always help maintain a comfortable temperature throughout the year.

A magnificent road leads down to the sea coast, where important business houses and beautiful residences are located, and she is put in touch with the rest of the island by three fine roads, one toward the north, another to the west and the third one toward the south, and has a daily service of passengers' cars from and to San Juan and Ponce.

There is a beautiful and spacious plaza, surrounded by fine buildings and wide streets, fine trees and electric light that make the city a picturesque spot.

It is a municipality of the second class and the capital of the Senatorial District of the same name and Representative District No. 31.

Humacao has a District Court, Municipal Court and a Peace Court. Its rural zone is devoted to sugar cane, although a great variety of fruits are also raised.

The San Ciriaco hurricane of August 8, 1898, did great damage to the city, and today the majority of its buildings are new, which has proved a benefit to Humacao.

Humacao is progressive in every way, constantly striving to extend her limits, and has several new suburbs where handsome residences have been built and also has a laborers' suburb with all sanitary improvements.

In its sanitation, the city progresses rapidly, now having a modern sewerage system, aqueduct and a market. She also has modern school buildings, those of the Grammar and High Schools being worthy of special mention, and also a hospital, one of the best on the island, donated to her by José Toro Rios, the well known lawyer, and two spacious theaters.

Many illustrious men and women have been born at Humacao, many of whom are remembered with affection, because they co-operated in the development of the city and in its intellectual and artistic growth.

Among these the notable pianist Anita Otero, pride of Humacao and of the Island; her father, Ignacio Otero, a prominent teacher of music; Joaquín Masferrer, a well known writer and an ardent worker in the liberal elements of the Island; Victor Buset, the eminent lawyer, who figured prominently in the most advanced parties of the Island, and represented as a delegate in the Insular Chamber, his native city; José Noya Julbe, a good patriot and a skilled druggist; José Antonio Guzmán and Serafín Noya, capitalists, who aided in the development and betterment of the Humacao region; the second one as a member of the firm of Noya & Hernández, giving the necessary money for the construction of the plaza and also furnishing it with a public clock.

Although not sons of Humacao, though they resided a long time there, giving her their energies, the following men must be remembered: Dr. Pablo Font Martilo, an eminent physician and a noble hearted man, devoted to his profession and the city; Domingo Quijano, educator, newspaperman, orator and poet of high merit; Emeterio Colón Warren, educator and newspaperman who directed the weekly "La Abeja" (The Bee), and José Llorens Echevarría, newspaperman and director of "El Criterio," which in the autonomist period of propaganda, fought with energy in favor of the rights of Porto Rico.



IGLESIA DE SANTO DOMINGO, SAN GERMÁN.
 OLD SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH, SAID TO HAVE ONCE BEEN USED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE
 SALAMANCA UNIVERSITY.

San Germán

Por Juan N. Matos,

Business Man. Former Member of the
 House of Representatives.

Founded in 1512 by direction of Diego Colón, a son of Christopher Columbus, and at one time Governor of the West Indies, San Germán stands on the hills of "Santa Marta," 23 kilometers east of Mayaguez Playa, at the western part of the island, and some 14 kilometers from the Parguera sea at the south.

Due to its antiquity, if for no other reason, first mention should be given to the "Portaceli" or "Santo Domingo" convent which for four centuries and more has been instrumental in giving peace and rest to the citizens of San Germán and which stands today, in relatively good condition to the glory of God and a credit to the workmanship of his children.

Evidently the early citizens of the city took more pains with the construction of God's house than they did in providing homes for themselves, as such of the early houses as still stand, have had to be altered or restored while most of them were torn down to give

place to beautiful new ones, and today cement constructions prevail.

And, just as by its years San Germán's old church has won first mention, in describing old church buildings, we will treat of her various other houses of worship next. There is a beautiful cathedral, among the most noted on the island, the San Sebastián hermitage, the Presbyterian Church with its beautiful grounds, and other appropriate structures devoted to the worship of God.

Near the old convent above mentioned stands the San Sebastián hermitage and not far away the old palace of "Las Monjas," now used as a school for girls, called "La Purísima Concepción," credited by the Department of Instruction.

There is also a masonic temple, a building used by the spiritualists, and a charity hospital.

As to financial and commercial institutions the city boasts of two strong banks, the "Banco

de Economías y Préstamos" and the San Germán Bank, the former founded in 1880, the latter in 1909. There are more than two hundred commercial establishments; three hotels; five drug stores; two theatres, one in course of construction; an office of the Registry of Deeds; four large school buildings and seventy-one smaller ones.

In fact, the children of this old town are well provided with modern branches of instruction, including night schools and classes in domestic sciences, music and industrial training, and also such as need it, are provided with a satisfying lunch free of cost.

Here, too, on the hills of San Germán stands the Porto Rico Polytechnic Institute, attended by both girls and boys with dormitories for resident pupils. Science Hall just built is the latest building of this institution which is destined to fill such an important place in the island's educational development, and which is fully described in the article on Protestant Churches in this book.

According to the census of 1920, she has 23,872 inhabitants, 5,000 in the city proper and the balance in the rural district. There are two residential centers: "El Círculo de

Recreo" established some forty years ago, and a most comfortable one for the working class.

Among her distinguished sons mention should be made of Genaro Cardona, grammarian and poet; Bonocio Tió Segarra, writer of prose and poetry; Ramón B. López, that progressive man of old San Germán who was the founder of the island's first journal; Santiago R. Palmer, so prominent in the move for the organization of freemasonry in Porto Rico in 1855; Francisco Mariano Quiñones, the statesman and author, who, though an owner of slaves, was a member of the commission that was sent to Madrid to ask for the abolition of slavery; Tomás Ramírez Quiñones, the founder of banks and beneficent and social centers; the poet Mariano Riera Palmer; José Marcial Quiñonez, pedagogue, and the San Germán lady, Antonia Martínez, who, although not possessing a great capital, gave to the Island the first building for a public school.

It is of interest to note also that the first "Juegos Florales"—literary contests—that took place on the island were celebrated in the town that Christopher Columbus' son, Diego, caused to be planted on the hills of "San Marta," now the hills of that ancient city, San Germán.

Yauco

By Pelegrín López de Victoria,

Writer.

The sturdy founders of what is now the city of Yauco, as was natural, planted their future hoped for city on the coast, but they soon decided that such a location was unwise, a decision which was prompted by the constant attacks of the early pirates aided by "a plague of an even worse nature"—the mosquito.

Can't you picture to yourself the scene? A group of excited town founders, worthy men and wroth at the costly visits of the pirates and the constant bites of the insect pests, debating in a sort of town meeting on what best to do, and with a glorious moon pouring down upon them, and then—exasperated beyond en-

durance one of them springing to his feet in disgust at the ravenous mosquitoes, exclaimed, while he slapped his face and hands—"Señores, por todos los Santos, mudemos el pueblo!"

And evidently they took his advice, because long before 1750 the inhabitants of that town had established themselves in the beautiful valley where the progressive city of Yauco stands today. True then it was a small village but a "comer" as proved six years later, when on February 29th, 1756, a royal decree was granted acknowledging the foundation of the town, the land for this purpose being donated by Don Pablo Pacheco and a gentleman named Ramírez.

On reaching there and receiving a warm welcome the visitor will enjoy a pleasant stroll along its handsome streets, noting its substantial and handsome brick and concrete structures, its two theatres, the "Lluberas building in which is located the post office, telegraph office, the office of the Commission of Workmen's Compensations, its bank, a branch of the "Crédito y Ahorro Ponceño," and the beautiful residences of its citizens among which are those of Arturo Lluberas, Carlos del Toro Fernández, Rafael García Soler, José Gilermini and Francisco Catala, one would think of that night hundreds of years ago and say to himself "they sure picked a winner."

And one would be right, for Yauco has won her place among the cities of the Island, today possessing a rich commerce, though her main riches come from agriculture and in this coffee leads, just as Yauco coffee leads in the market the world over, sugar and tobacco pressing close behind.

Needlework, too, is well developed and the blouse industry gives work to many of her fair daughters. The city is endowed with two libraries and two famous orchestras—"La Filarmonica" and the other composed of mandolins and on which Yauco's fair charmers play the most divine music. In fact, Yauco has a strong musical taste, well developed and looked after and promoted by the noted Porto Rican musician, Jesús María Muñoz.

Among her distinguished men may be mentioned Francisco Mejía, patriot and statesman; Santiago Vivaldi, that statesman of such wide reputation; Manuel Solis, lawyer and author, and Norberto Cordero, poet and newspaperman. Although not born in Yauco the three doctors, Rafael Gatell, Pasarell and Atilio Gaztambide, afford its people the most modern medical skill as well as decided impulse for the development of this town. Yauco is world famous for its coffee, that coffee that made Yauco famous to coffee lovers everywhere.

